

810-5-1-.238 Registration of Motor Vehicles Not Subject to Titling.

(1) The following motor vehicles are generally not manufactured to comply with federal and state statutes, rules, and regulations governing safety, emissions, and antitheft standards, and cannot be titled or registered in Alabama unless they meet the requirements in paragraph two (2) below:

(a) A dune buggy is defined as an open chassis off-road recreational vehicle primarily designed or modified for off-road use on sand dunes or beaches. A dune buggy may also be referred to as a rail buggy, air buggy or sand rail.

(b) A golf cart is defined as an off-road recreational vehicle primarily designed and manufactured for use on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes.

(c) A Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) or Recreational Off Highway Vehicle (ROV) is defined as a motorized off-road vehicle designed to travel on four or more non-highway tires, with a steering wheel, non-straddle seating, seat belts, an occupant protective structure, and engine displacement up to 1,000cc.

(d) An All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) also known as a quad, quad bike, three-wheeler, or four-wheeler, is defined as a vehicle that travels on low-pressure tires, with a seat that is straddled by the operator, along with handlebars for steering control. Engine sizes usually range from 49 to 1,000 cc (3 to 61 cubic inches).

(2) In order to determine if a motor vehicle not subject to titling may be registered, the license plate issuing official must physically inspect the vehicle and vehicle ownership documentation to verify one of the following before issuing a license plate or transferring a registration:

(a) The motor vehicle must have a 17 digit VIN which conforms to National Highway Safety and Traffic Administration (NHTSA) standards, except motor vehicles manufactured prior to 1981.

(b) The manufacturer's statement of origin (MSO) or manufacturer's certificate of origin (MCO) must state that the vehicle complies with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS). The MSO, title or bill of sale may reflect that the vehicle is for off road use only, which indicates that the vehicle is not intended for use on the public roadways.

(c) A certification label meeting the requirements of 49 CFR Part 567 that, among other things, identifies the vehicle's manufacturer (i.e., the actual assembler of the vehicle), the vehicle's date of manufacture (month and year), and containing the following statement: "This vehicle conforms to all applicable FMVSS in effect on the date of manufacture shown above."

(3) A mini-truck as defined in Section 40-12-240, Code of Alabama 1975, is exempt from titling; however, a mini-truck license plate may be issued a mini-truck license plate that is restricted to non-interstate use (§32-6-59).

(4) A motor-driven cycle as defined in Section 32-1-1.1, Code of Alabama 1975, is exempt from titling; however, a motor-driven cycle may be issued a motorcycle license plate.

(5) A low speed vehicle (LSV) as defined in administrative rule 810-5-75-.68, is exempt from titling; however, a LSV may be issued a passenger vehicle license plate if the LSV complies with FMVSS as provided in 49 C.F.R. Section 571.500. Note: a LSV is not a golf cart.

(6) Imported motor vehicles may not be titled or registered unless the vehicle is determined to be in compliance with FMVSS by the NHTSA or a registered importer as provided by 49 C.F.R. Section 591. Imported motor vehicles that are 25 model years old or older are not subject to FMVSS and may be titled and registered with proper ownership documentation.

(7) All motor vehicles not subject to titling that are eligible to be registered must have proper ownership documentation. This documentation includes a bill of sale, court order, properly assigned certificate of origin or certificate of title or any other documentation as specified by the Department.

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Authority: Section 40-2A-7(a)(5), Code of Alabama 1975

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